

KINGS MOUNTAIN The Herald

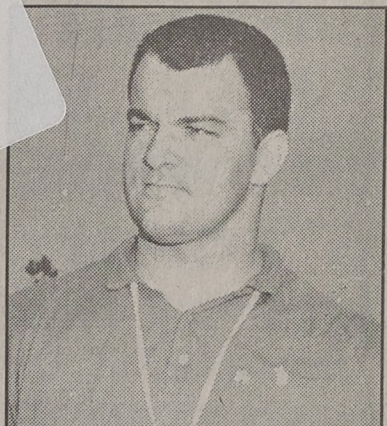
Thursday, March 21, 2002

Vol. 114 No. 12

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CROSS WALK



CrossWalk

Unique outdoor Easter drama opens tonight in downtown KM

CrossWalk - The Way to Amazing Grace - will be presented for the second straight year Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 21-23, in downtown Kings Mountain.

Over 150 area residents will participate in the outdoor drama or work behind the scenes. Presentations are at 7, 8 and 9 o'clock each evening.

Admission is free but tickets are necessary by contacting Regal Ventures at 704 739-3838.

CrossWalk is a unique way to retell the story of the final days of Jesus' earthly life. "Tour" groups are led through the streets of the city as Jesus goes through a series of dramatic scenes that unfold the story of Easter.

This year, the tours will begin in the Senior Citizens Mini-Park, located beside Griffin Drug Store on West Mountain Street. The tour will go to various stops along Mountain Street and Piedmont Avenue, and end with the resurrection scene set up below Central United Methodist Church.

See CrossWalk, 3A



Richard Prow, top photo, portrays Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and Jim Belt, bottom, portrays the Roman Centurion in CrossWalk, which will be presented Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights in downtown Kings Mountain.

Citizens to protest plan for apartments near school

By BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

A proposed apartment complex which will be built near the new Kings Mountain Intermediate School has a group of city residents concerned.

"We're just worried about so many residents living in a concentrated area," Eddie Payne said.

Payne and several other residents are listed on an advertisement against rezoning the land the complex would go on from residential R-10 to R-6.

The advertisement, which is in today's edition of The Herald, said that a petition is being passed around the Kings Mountain area.

The 56-apartment complex would go on land owned by David Beam and MPB, Inc.

Eagan Construction would develop, build, and manage the apartments. Currently the company manages 150 complexes containing 9,000 units. The complex would also have a bike path, a clubhouse, and a playground.

Rents for the apartments are expected to be between \$400 to \$600, which would be from a state tax credit program.

Construction could start as early as next year if the development is given approval for the tax credit program.

The item, which was recommended by the Planning and Zoning Board by a 4-3 vote, is expected to be on the agenda of the Kings Mountain City Council's March 26 meeting.

"We know if they get this approved, they could get others," Payne said. "There's another 30 acres that could be potentially built for that." He

said he would have no problem with a single-home development or with the new Life Enrichment Center building.

Development of Kings Mountain Blvd. is expected to increase with the area being slated to go to Interstate 85. Payne said an increase of traffic from that coupled with the students concerns him.

Kings Mountain Planning and Zoning Board Chairman Jim Childers said more development is expected to go in the Kings Mountain Blvd. corridor, and the board is working on an overlay which would help with traffic flow and aesthetics.

But while the debate on this issue could be similar to the previous Cansler Street planned unit development, city officials said the project may be good for the area.

"To me personally, it looks good," Childers said. The board's concern was whether the project would fit the zoning, density and traffic flow, he said.

He said the developers assured him the project was not wholly subsidized.

The density of the Kings Mountain Blvd complex is expected to be same or less than the Cansler Street development, and the land would be unused.

The Cansler Street development was proposed for land which was formerly mined, Kings Mountain Planning Director Steve Killian said.

Payne said he hopes the issue will be defeated since it could be a safety problem.

"We hope they will turn it down and listen to the public," Payne said. "We feel like it will be a safer place if it was just a single house development."

Service to raise funds for Pete Leach

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

While he is still a long way from full recovery, a 50-year-old man who almost died when struck by a vehicle on December 23 is back home.

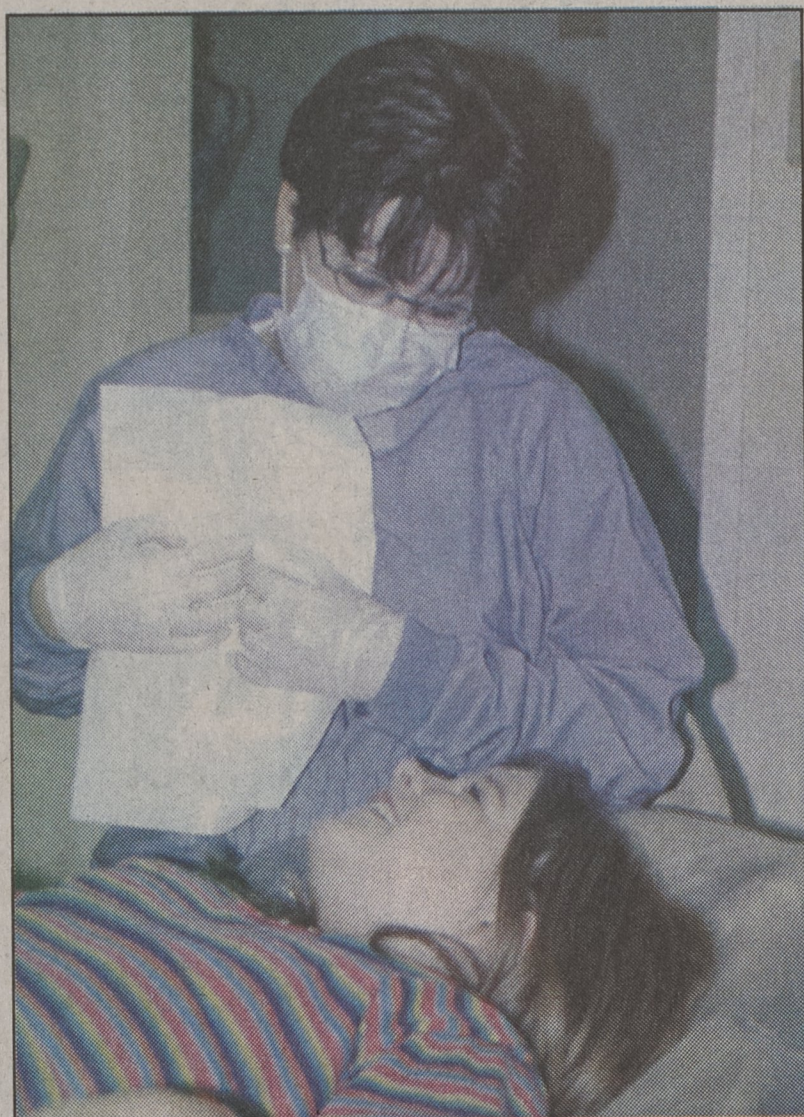


John Bernard "Pete" Leach came home Thursday from a Charlotte hospital where he spent the first several weeks following the accident in a coma.

He has regained consciousness, and that in itself is a miracle.

His pastor, Georgia B. Guest of Holy Temple Baptist Mission, and numerous area

See Leach, 5A



Amanda Deaton gets ready to look at Grover student Harley Putnam's teeth Monday morning as part of Seal the State, a program that gives free sealants to elementary school students.

KM Police seek public's help to stop rash of car break-ins

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

Technically, they're called break-ins.

But, actually, according to Captain Derek Johnson of the Kings Mountain Police Department, the rash of larcenies from vehicles in Kings Mountain over the past several weeks has been the result of people leaving their doors unlocked.

Already this week, the Police Department has responded to over 20 car break-ins, including nine Tuesday and early Wednesday morning.

Someone is going all over the city - usually between the hours of 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. - enter-

ing cars and stealing valuables. In cases where there is nothing of value in the vehicle, the thieves ransack the glove compartment and scatter its contents on the seat.

The most popular items being taken include money, CD's, pocketbooks and cell phones.

"They're actually not breaking in, they're just opening the unlocked car doors and taking anything of value inside," Johnson said.

"The biggest thing is pocketbooks. Why females leave their pocketbook in the car and the doors unlocked is beyond me. They should take their pocketbooks inside whether it's got anything in it or not. That entices the thieves to go in and take it

See Police, 5A

Board hears parents' concerns

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

The Kings Mountain Board of Education Tuesday night heard two more complaints from parents and promised the father of a student who has not been allowed to wear a Confederate flag shirt to school that it would consider amending its dress code policy.

Johnny Nations, who has appeared before the board on numerous occasions since his son was told last October that his flag shirts violated the dress code, pointed to a section of the policy that

he said stated that students would not be discriminated against because of their "national origin."

Nations said his son's heritage is Southern. He presented the board "educational" material about the flag that he received from "Dixie Outfitters."

Shearra Miller said the Board would consider changes to the policy, and if it did it would solicit community input.

Nations said his son is an "A/B student and participates in all sports"...and "is being discriminated against because he's from the south."

Miller said the interpretation of the school's

See Concerns, 5A



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